

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W
-----241809 030735 /47

P R 241732Z FEB 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2273

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMDMBASSY OSLO 1193

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY REYKAVIK

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECTC NORDIC DEMARCHE ON VALUTATION

1. MTN DEL MET BILATERALLY WITH NORDICS AT
THEIR REQUEST TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIA-
TIONS ON CUSTOMS VALUATION AND TO LISTEN TO SPECIFIC
NORDIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT US VALUATION SYSTEM.

2. NORDICS (HAGFORS) EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR PRIMARY
REASON FOR NOW WANTING TO PURSUE VALUATION
BILATERALLY AS WELL AS MULTILATERALLY IS
APPREHENSION THAT MULTILATERAL VALUATION DISCUSSIONS
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ARE STALLED AND MAY PROVE FRUITLESS. NORDICS NOTED
THAT VALUATION IS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THEM AND
THAT SECURING CHANGES IN US VALUATION SYSTEM IS A
MAJOR NORDIC OBJECTIVE IN MTN. THEY PRESENTED MTN
DEL WITH A MEMORANDUM (TO BE HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON
BY WILSON, STR) OUTLINING PRINCIPAL NORDIC PROBLEMS WITH
US VALUATION SYSTEM AND STATED THAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR

AMENDMENTS TO US LAW. ALTHOUGH NORDICS WILL GLADLY PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO DEVELOPMENT OF POSSIBLE NEW INTERNATIONAL RULES, THEY IMPLIED THAT THEY DIDN'T WANT TO FORECLOSE POSSIBILITIES OF ACHIEVING THEIR OBJECTIVES IN BILATERAL CONTEXT.

3. MTN DEL (NEWKIRK) REPEATED FAMILIAR US POSITION THAT US IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN WORK PROGRAM LEADING TO POSSIBLE NEW INTERNATIONAL RULES BUT THAT ANY CHANGES IN US VALUATION LAW WOULD REQUIRE APPROPRIATE RECIPROCITY. US POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING SPECIFIC VALUATION SYSTEMS BECAUSE WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THIS ADVANCES OUR WORK. HOWEVER, WE TOOK NOTE OF NORDIC MEMORANDUM AND STATED THAT A US RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN NEAR FUTURE. WHEN MTN DEL QUERIED NORDICS AS TO TYPE OF RESPONSE THEY WERE SEEKING FOR MEMORANDUM (VIS., TECHNICAL OR POLICY ORIENTED), NORDICS WERE AMBIGUOUS.

4. COMMENT: NORDIC DEMARCHE ON VALUATION APPEARS TO BE RELATED TO EC BACK-PDEALING IN RECENT MEETING OF CUSTOMS MATTERS SUBGROUP RE EC INTENTIONS FOR TABLING OA DRAFT VALUATION. WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NORDICS MAY BE USEFUL IN THAT, IF THEY CONTINUE TO PRESS BILATERALLY FOR SPECIFIC CHANGES IN THE US SYSTEM, IT RAISES THE LEVEL OF RECIPROCITY WE COULD REQUIRE IN A MULTILATERAL SOLUTION. END COMMENT. WALKER

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